



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

DEC 6 8 2011

Corbin Newman
Regional Forester
Southwestern Region
333 Broadway Blvd., SE
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Dear Mr. Newman:

In accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act (CAA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 office in Dallas, Texas, has completed its review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) prepared by the United States Forest Service (USFS) of the United States Department of the Agriculture (USDA) for the Kiowa, Rita Blanca, Black Kettle, and McClellan Creek National Grasslands Land and Resource Management Plan, located within the states of New Mexico, Texas and Oklahoma.

Based on our analysis, EPA rates the DEIS as "LO" (Lack of Objections). EPA has no objection to the preferred alternative proposed by the USFS. Our only comment is as follows:

It would be beneficial if the Final EIS include the Washita Battlefield National Historic Site, located within the Black Kettle National Grassland. This site has undergone intense study and examination with regard to concerns expressed by Native Americans.

EPA appreciates the opportunity to review the DEIS. Please send our office two copies of the FEIS when it is sent to the Office of Federal Activities, EPA (Mail Code 2252A), Ariel Rios Federal Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004. Our classification will be published on the EPA website, www.epa.gov, according to our responsibility under Section 309 of the CAA to inform the public of our views on the proposed Federal action. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Michael Jansky of my staff at jansky.michael@epa.gov or 214-665-7451 for assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rhonda Smith", is written over a large, stylized, and somewhat illegible signature that appears to be "Michael Jansky".

Rhonda Smith
Chief, Office of Planning
and Coordination